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log onto a particular Internet web site, wherein a directory guides the individual to a SELIGMAN HARVESTER® risk management system web page. The web page allows the individual to input and submit, e.g.: (1) an initial investment, (2) a fixed dollar and a fixed percent withdrawal and (3) an asset allocation. The invention receives the foregoing information, generates a hypothetical distribution of investment outcomes for the specific asset allocation, and interacts the hypothetical distribution of investment outcomes with the fixed dollar and fixed percent withdrawal to a hypothetical illustration of a distribution of possible portfolio values or withdrawal amounts, whose results are scaled based on the amount of the initial investment. By varying the specified fixed dollar withdrawal, and/or the specified fixed percent withdrawal and/or the specified asset allocation, an individual can determine a hypothetical illustration of possible portfolio values or withdrawal amounts for each combination, and thereby make an informed selection of the strategy most appropriate for themselves.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-89 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

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--90. (new). A method comprising:

obtaining data comprising rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and at least one rate of inflation;

obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount having a fixed dollar amount and a fixed percentage amount;

generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the rates of return for the asset classes and the rate of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount.--

--91. (new). The method of claim 90, wherein the distribution of investment outcomes is generated on an annual basis within a 30 year period.--

--92. (new). The method of claim 90, further comprising the step of displaying to the individual an illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio.--

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--93. (new). The method of claim 92, further comprising the step of selecting an appropriate investment strategy by iteratively varying a variable selected from the group consisting of: the fixed dollar withdrawal amount, the fixed percentage withdrawal amount, a composition of the financial portfolio, and combinations thereof, and reviewing the illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes.--

--94. (new). The method of claim 92, wherein the illustration is a portfolio chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the portfolio chart containing the projected portfolio values.--

--95. (new). The method of claim 94, wherein the illustration further comprises a withdrawal chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the withdrawal chart containing the total amount of the fixed dollar withdrawal amount and the fixed percentage withdrawal amount.--

--96. (new). The method of claim 90, wherein the asset classes are selected from the group consisting of: U.S. Large Cap stocks, U.S. Mid Cap stocks, U.S. Small Cap stocks, International Large Cap stocks, International Small Cap stocks, Emerging Markets stocks, Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, 30-Day U.S. Treasury Bills, and combinations thereof.--

--97. (new). A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising instructions for:

obtaining data comprising rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and at least one rate of inflation;

obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount having a fixed dollar amount and a fixed percentage amount;


generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the rates of return of the asset classes and the rate of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount.--

--98. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 97, wherein the distribution of investment outcomes is generated on an annual basis within a 30 year period.--

--99. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 97, further comprising instructions for displaying to the individual an illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio.--

--100. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 99, further comprising instructions for selecting an appropriate investment strategy by iteratively varying a variable selected from the group consisting of: the fixed dollar withdrawal amount, the fixed percentage withdrawal amount, a composition of the financial portfolio, and combinations thereof, and reviewing the illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes.--

 --101. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the illustration is a portfolio chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the portfolio chart containing the projected portfolio values.--

--102. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 101, wherein the illustration further comprises a withdrawal chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the withdrawal chart containing the total amount of the fixed dollar withdrawal amount and the fixed percentage withdrawal amount.--

--103. (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 97, wherein the asset classes are selected from the group consisting of: U.S. Large Cap stocks, U.S. Mid Cap stocks, U.S. Small Cap stocks, International Large Cap stocks, International Small Cap stocks, Emerging Markets stocks, Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, 30-Day U.S. Treasury Bills, and combinations thereof.--

--104. (new). An apparatus for facilitating asset allocation and withdrawal strategy, the apparatus comprising:

a storage device;

a processor connected to the storage device;
a program stored in the storage device and configured to control the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to:

obtain data comprising rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and at least one rate of inflation;

select for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated having an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount having a fixed dollar amount and a fixed percentage amount;

generate a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the rates of return of the asset classes and the rate of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount.--

--105. (new). The apparatus of claim 104, wherein the distribution of investment outcomes is generated on an annual basis within a 30 year period.--

--106. (new). The apparatus of claim 104, wherein the processor is further operative with the program to display to the individual an illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio.--

--107. (new). The apparatus of claim 106, wherein the processor is further operative with the program to select an appropriate investment strategy by iteratively varying a variable selected from the group consisting of: the fixed dollar withdrawal amount, the fixed percentage withdrawal amount, a composition of the financial portfolio, and combinations thereof, and to review the illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes.--

--108. (new). The apparatus of claim 106, wherein the illustration is a portfolio chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the portfolio chart containing the projected portfolio values.--

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--109. (new). The apparatus of claim 108, wherein the illustration further comprises a withdrawal chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the withdrawal chart containing the total amount of the fixed dollar withdrawal amount and the fixed percentage withdrawal amount.--

--110. (new). The apparatus of claim 104, wherein the asset classes are selected from the group consisting of: U.S. Large Cap stocks, U.S. Mid Cap stocks, U.S. Small Cap stocks, International Large Cap stocks, International Small Cap stocks, Emerging Markets stocks, Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, 30-Day U.S. Treasury Bills, and combinations thereof.--

--111. (new). A computer program comprising:

first program means for obtaining data comprising rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and at least one rate of inflation;

second program means for obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be

evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount having a fixed dollar amount and a fixed percentage amount; and

third program means for generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the rates of return of the asset classes and the rate of inflation, and determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount.--

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--112. (new). A method comprising:

obtaining historical data for a plurality of historical periods, the data comprising historical rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and historical rates of inflation;

obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount;

generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the historical rates of return of the asset classes and the historical rates of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount adjusted for the historical rate of inflation.--

--113. (new). The method of claim 112, wherein the historical data for a plurality of historical periods comprises annual historical rates of return and annual historical rates of inflation for each year from 1950 to present.--

--114. (new). The method of claim 112, further comprising the step of displaying to the individual an illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio, wherein the illustration is a portfolio chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the portfolio chart containing the projected portfolio values.--

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--115. (new). The method of claim 114, further comprising the step of selecting an appropriate investment strategy by iteratively varying a variable selected from the group consisting of: the fixed dollar withdrawal amount, the fixed percentage withdrawal amount, a composition of the financial portfolio, and combinations thereof, and reviewing the illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes.--

--116. (new). The method of claim 112, wherein the desired withdrawal amount comprises:

a fixed dollar withdrawal amount; and
a fixed percentage withdrawal amount that varies according to a value of each of the investment outcomes.--

--117. (new). The method of claim 116, further comprising the step of displaying to the individual an illustration of the distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio, wherein the illustration is a withdrawal chart having an x-axis that ranges from a worst case scenario to a best case scenario, and y-axis that ranges, on the incremental basis, from the beginning to the end of the designated time period and the withdrawal chart containing the projected portfolio values as well as the total amount of the fixed dollar withdrawal amount and the fixed percentage withdrawal amount.--

--118. (new). The method of claim 112, wherein the distribution of investment outcomes is generated on an annual basis within a 30 year period.--

--119. (new). The method of claim 112, wherein the asset classes are selected from the group consisting of: U.S. Large Cap stocks, U.S. Mid Cap stocks, U.S. Small Cap stocks, International Large Cap stocks, International Small Cap stocks, Emerging Markets stocks, Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, 30-Day U.S. Treasury Bills, and combinations thereof.--

--120. (new). A method comprising:
obtaining data comprising historical rates of return for a plurality of asset classes for a plurality of historical periods and data comprising at least one rate of inflation;

obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount selected from the group consisting of: a fixed dollar amount, a fixed percentage of the projected portfolio value, and combinations thereof;

generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio

on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the historical rates of return of the asset classes and the rate of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount adjusted for the rate of inflation.--

--121. (new). A method comprising:

obtaining data comprising rates of return for a plurality of asset classes and data comprising historical rates of inflation for a plurality of historical periods;

obtaining for a particular individual a financial portfolio to be evaluated based on an initial investment allocated to at least one of the asset classes, and a desired withdrawal amount selected from the group consisting of: a fixed dollar amount, a fixed percentage of the projected portfolio value, and combinations thereof;

generating a probabilistic distribution of investment outcomes for the financial portfolio on an incremental basis within a designated time period by determining a plurality of projected portfolio values using the rates of return of the asset classes and the historical rates of inflation; and

determining, for each of the projected portfolio values, a projected withdrawal amount that corresponds to the desired withdrawal amount adjusted for the historical rate of inflation.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.